

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. By the present amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 and 12 have been amended, claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein, and new claim 14 has been added. Claims 1-12 and 14 are pending.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. *(Currently Amended)* A database access tool comprising:

 a database;

 means for ~~constructing~~ a user to construct database queries;

 a query store for storing previously constructed database queries,
said query store being separate from said database;

 a search tool operable to receive ~~said~~ a user constructed database
query and search the query store for a previously constructed database query that
resembles said user constructed database query; and

 query submission means for selecting between ~~[[a]]~~ the user
constructed query and a previously constructed database query resembling the user
constructed query located by the search tool ~~against it~~ from the query store ~~by the~~
~~search tool~~, and for submitting the selected query to ~~[[a]]~~ said database.

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Claim 2. (*Currently Amended*) A tool according to Claim 1 wherein the means for constructing database queries comprises user input means for loading data to at least one data field in a database query and the search tool comprises means to calculate a similarity factor between the data fields in database queries stored in the query store and at least one data field in a user ~~newly~~ constructed database query.

Claim 3. (*Original*) A tool according to Claim 2 wherein the query store and the search tool are constructed according to use of case based reasoning (CBR) and the means for constructing database queries does so to construct a query as a case.

Claim 4. (*Previously Presented*) A tool according to Claim 2 wherein management information data is collected in use of the tool to submit queries to the database, the tool further comprising means for collecting said management information, structuring the management information for a respective query in the same manner as a database query constructed by the tool and loading the structured management information to a management information data store, said management information data store being searchable by means of the search tool.

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Claim 5. (*Currently Amended*) A database according to claim 1, further comprising a data store for storing previous results associated with previous database queries and wherein the search tool is further operable, when a ~~located~~ previously constructed query is identical or similar to the user constructed query is selected, to return the results stored in the data store that are associated with the ~~located~~ selected previously constructed query.

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) A method of accessing a database, the method comprising:

constructing a database query by a user;

searching a query store containing previously constructed database queries for a previously constructed query that resembles ~~[[a]]~~ the user constructed database query, said query store being separate from said database;

selecting between the user constructed database query and a previously constructed database query resembling the user constructed query ~~located against it from the query store of previously constructed queries during the~~ searching step; and

submitting the selected query to the database.

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Claim 7. *(Previously Presented)* A method according to claim 6, wherein the step of constructing a database query comprises a user loading data to at least one data field in a database query.

Claim 8. *(Currently Amended)* A method according to claim 7, wherein the step of searching comprises calculating a similarity factor between data fields in the previously constructed database queries stored in the query store and at least one data field in the ~~newly~~ user constructed database query.

Claim 9. *(Previously Presented)* A method according to claim 7, wherein the query store is constructed by case based reasoning.

Claim 10. *(Previously Presented)* A method according to claim 9, wherein the step of constructing a query comprises creating a query as a case using case based reasoning, and the step of searching comprises using case based reasoning.

Claim 11. *(Previously Presented)* A method according to claim 6, further comprising:

collecting management information data for a query submitted to the database;

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structuring the management information in the same manner as the respective query; and

loading the structured management information to a searchable management information data store.

Claim 12. *(Currently Amended)* A method according to claim 6, further comprising:

storing results associated with a ~~submitted~~ the previously constructed database queries query in a data store, and if a previously constructed database query is selected, returning the results associated with the selected previously constructed database query.

Claim 13. *(Canceled)*

Claim 14. *(New)* A database access tool, comprising:

a database;

means for constructing database queries by a user;

a query store for storing previously constructed database queries,

said query store being separate from said database;

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a data store for storing previous results associated with previous database queries;

a search tool operable to receive a user constructed database query and search the query store for a previously constructed database query that resembles said user constructed database query; and

query submission means for selecting between the user constructed query and the previously constructed database query resembling the user constructed query located by the search tool from the query store, and for submitting the selected query to the database;

wherein the search tool is further operable, when a previously constructed query is identical or similar to the user constructed query is selected, to return the results stored in the data store that are associated with the selected previously constructed query.